THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Grant-in-aid to NGOs are given on the basis of prescribed norms and criteria laid down in various schemes of the Ministry There is no separate policy as such for independent functioning of NGOs.

(b) No such information has been communicated to the Government of India.

(c) Does not arise.

**Blind, Deaf and Dumb Persons**

2561. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blind, deaf, dumb and physically handicapped persons in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the schemes undertaken by the Government of India for their welfare?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991 estimated that about 16.15 million people were suffering from physical handicap including locomotor, speech and hearing and visual handicap

(b) A statement showing the schemes undertaken for the welfare of handicapped persons is enclosed

**STATEMENT**

**(1) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled**

Under this scheme, assistance is provided to Voluntary Organisations to run rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. It is a comprehensive scheme covering different areas of rehabilitation physically, psychological, social and economic. Financial support is given to the extent of 90% of total project cost (upto 95% for the rural areas) for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistance is given for the projects such as vocational training centres, special schools, placement services etc.

**(2) Establishment and Development of Special Schools**

The Scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs to the extent of 900 for establishment and upgradation of special schools in four major disabilities - orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there are no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

**(3) Assistance to Organisations for Persons with Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation for Manpower Development**

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100% for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerebal Palsy and Mental retardation.

**(4) Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons**

Under this scheme, assistance is given upto 90% to voluntary organisations in developing programmes for rehabilitation of leprosy cur persons.

**(5) National Institutes**

In order to effectively deal with the multi-dimensional problems of the handicapped population, the following four National Institutes have been set up These institutes are apex level organisations in one field of training, vocational guidance, conselling, research, rehabilitation, development of suitable service modules. These institutes also serve as premier documentation and information centres in their area of disability :-

(i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun

(ii) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta

(iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay.

(iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secundrabad

In addition to these the following two institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons :-

(i) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

(ii) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Olatpur, Orissa.

**(6) Employment**

(i) Section 33 of the persons with disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from

(a) blindness or low vision.

(b) hearing impairment; and

(c) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the post-identified for each disability. 3% reservation in Group 'C' & 'D' for handicapped persons had already been

there even before the Law came into force. Similar reservation have also been given by some State Governments. In addition, the handicapped are also given age concessions in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government jobs.

(ii) 47 Special Employment Exchange and 41 Special Cells in the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled arrange them training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self employment is promoted through the following :

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Governments/UTs.

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at concessional Rates of Interest.

(c) Preference in allotment of Public Telephone Booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of Petrol Pumps, Kerosence Depots etc.

**(7) Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances**

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procurnng durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their physically, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the companies, registered under Companies Act, registered Societies, trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both governmental and non-governmental agnecies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200/- and at 50% of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201/- to Rs. 2500/-

(8) Government of India have recently enacted "The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995". The Act provides prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment non-discrimination etc. for disabled persons including mentally retarded persons.

(9) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corpn. is being set up to provide an additional channel of finance at concessional rates to enable the handicapped persons to take up self-employment project.

**Foreigners' Visit**

2562. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreigners, who visited India during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of Pakistanis out of them during the said period;

(c) the number of foreigners especially from the Pakistan who visited Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) the number of foreigners who overstayed in Jammu and Kashmir along with their nationality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) During the years 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto August), 1678648, 1895486, 2141446 and 1442737 foreigners respectively visited India.

(b) Out of them, 54194, 44039, 34769 and 32547 Pakistanis visited India during the same period.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Seizure of Articles**

2563. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Wild Life Conservation Department seized the articles from a package marked woolen items meant for export to London at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on 11.11.96;

(b) if so, whether this was the second seizure within a span of five days;

(c) if so, the details regarding the arrested persons in this regard; and

(d) the procedure adopted by the Government so far as the question of checking etc. is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). On 11.11.96 the Northern Region, Wildlife Preservation Office under this Ministry detected 12 shahtoosh shawls in a consignment of woollen articles destined for London at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The shawls were seized by the customs authorities under the Customs Act. This